

PHIGALEIA.

PREFACE.

It may be easily imagined that the previous success of the Travellers at Aegina was well calculated to excite them to new enterprises; one of which in particular, the exploration of the Temple of Apollo Epicurius in Arcadia, had been in frequent contemplation.

This Temple had been known for some years by the cursory visits of former travellers; but the remoteness of the site, and the dangers arising from malaria, and especially from the Kleftes, the lawless bandits of Arcadia,* had hitherto discouraged both English and continental travellers from undertaking any deliberate investigations into its style and structure. The interesting facts recorded by Pausanias,† that the Temple had been designed by Ictinus, the eminent architect and fellow-labourer with Phidias in the building of the Parthenon at Athens, and that, next to the Temple at Tegea, it had always been esteemed the most beautiful in the entire Peloponnesus, were sufficient reasons to assure them of the importance of the investigation.

To these labours they accordingly determined to direct their best energies, and furnishing themselves with the means of encountering the threatened dangers, such as arms and guards, together with a tent and some culinary apparatus, they started from Zante early in July, 1811, after having deposited the Aeginetan marbles in that place of safety.

From the little port of Pyrgo opposite to Zante, Baron Haller, Herr Lynck, and Messrs. Foster and the Editor, traversed Elis and part of Arcadia, and arrived in a fine afternoon at Andritzena, the nearest village to their appointed destination, where they had arranged to pass the night. On the side of a deep declivity, the houses rising one above another amidst gardens and woodland scenery, the oak, the platanus, and the cypress; this romantic site presented picturesque attractions wholly irresistible to artists, and they remained to sketch while their attendants moved forward to obtain a lodging for them. They had not long been so employed before a troop of young Arcadians, with baskets of fruit and flowers, were seen running towards them with these offerings of welcome. Thus the scene was invested with a moral beauty in addition to the charms with which it was endowed by nature, and the Poet's dream of this favoured region was realised to the imaginations of the Travellers.

* Monsieur Poqueville in his *Voyage en Morée* in 1798, relates that a French architect, Mons. Bocher, visiting the Temple of Apollo from Caritena in 1770, was murdered by the Lallotes.

† Arcad., ch. xli. "Of all the Temples in the Peloponnesus, after that of Tegea, this Temple is the most admired for the beauty of the marble and the harmony of the proportions."